

Minimum crime age disappoints

GUARDIAN for Children and Young People Penny Wright says she is disappointed the country's attorneys-general did not raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 when they met this week to discuss the issue.

The Council of Attorneys-General, which comprises attorneys-general from the Federal Government and all states and territories, on Monday determined that further work was required "regarding the need for adequate processes and services for children who exhibit offending behaviour".

Ms Wright, who is also the Training Centre Visitor, said she was "disappointed that children will continue to be punished for a life they are born into through no fault of their own".

"Time in detention is meant to 'teach them a lesson' and to change their criminal behaviours but all the evidence tells us detention does nothing to deter the child from committing future crimes," she said.

Ms Wright said she would continue to push for the minimum age of criminal responsibility to be raised.

The Council of Attorney-General agreed in 2018 to consider lifting the age to 14.